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MARVEL
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SHOWDOWN WITH THE COLD WARRIORS!
PLUS THREE OTHER EXCITING FEATURES!
B. WACKER

MARVEL® COMICS PRESENTS™

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Stan Lee Presents:

COLOSSUS "GOD'S COUNTRY" 1

WRITER — Ann Nocenti
PENCILER — Rick Leonardi
INKER — Al Milgrom
LETTERER — Ken Lopez
COLORIST — Mike Rockwitz

"BONDAGE" — PART 6 OF 8

On orders of the mysterious man called Alexander, a team of renegade super-powered government agents are intent on assassinating an American family... witnesses to a sanctioned murder. Only the Russian X-Man, Colossus, has stood as their protector.

But now, a new player enters the picture...

BLACK PANTHER "PANTHER'S QUEST" 9

WRITER — Don McGregor
PENCILER — Gene Colan
INKER — Tom Palmer
LETTERER — Joe Rosen
COLORIST — Glynis Oliver

"LOST BLOOD IN COPPER DUST" — PART 3 OF 25

The Black Panther has surreptitiously entered South Africa to learn if Patrick Slade, the owner of a curio store on the outskirts of a black township, really knows if his mother is alive or not. Before T'challa can learn the answer to that, they are attacked by a deadly mercenary force... that plays for keeps!

MARVEL GIRL "THE MAIDEN PHOENIX" 17

WRITER — Bobbie Chase
PENCILER — Dwayne Turner
INKER — Mike Gustovich
LETTERER — Ken Lopez
COLORIST — Andy Yanchus

In the night sky high above Manhattan hovers Apocalypse's ship—its inhabitants, the mutant super heroes known as X-Factor. As they sleep, ghosts haunt the dreams of the one known as Marvel Girl. Or is it something else?

RED WOLF "DESERT TEARS" 25

WRITER — Fabian Nicieza
PENCILER — Javier Saltares
INKER — Mark McKenna
LETTERER — Michael Heisler
COLORIST — Evelyn Stein

Chosen by the Cheyenne Gods to protect and avenge the Indian people, William Talltrees is realizing that he has done neither to the best of his ability...

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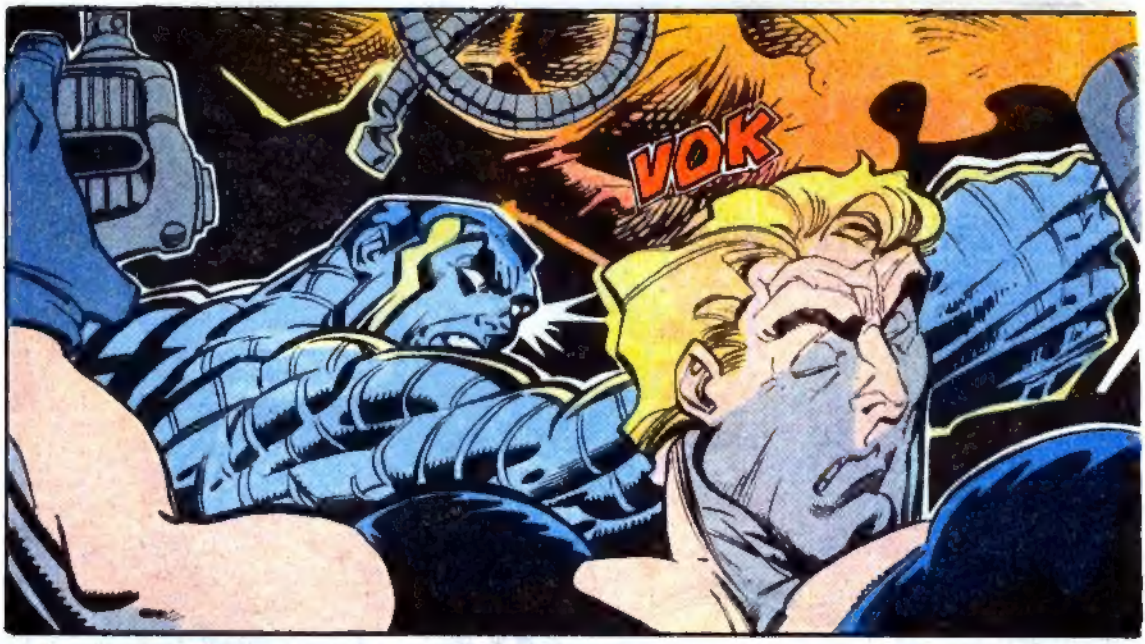
GOD'S COUNTRY -- PART VI
BONDAGE
COLOSSUS
GIVE UP! YOU'RE OUT-NUMBERED!
YOU GIVE UP! YOU'RE OUT-CLASSED!
SKRAK
FWOOSH

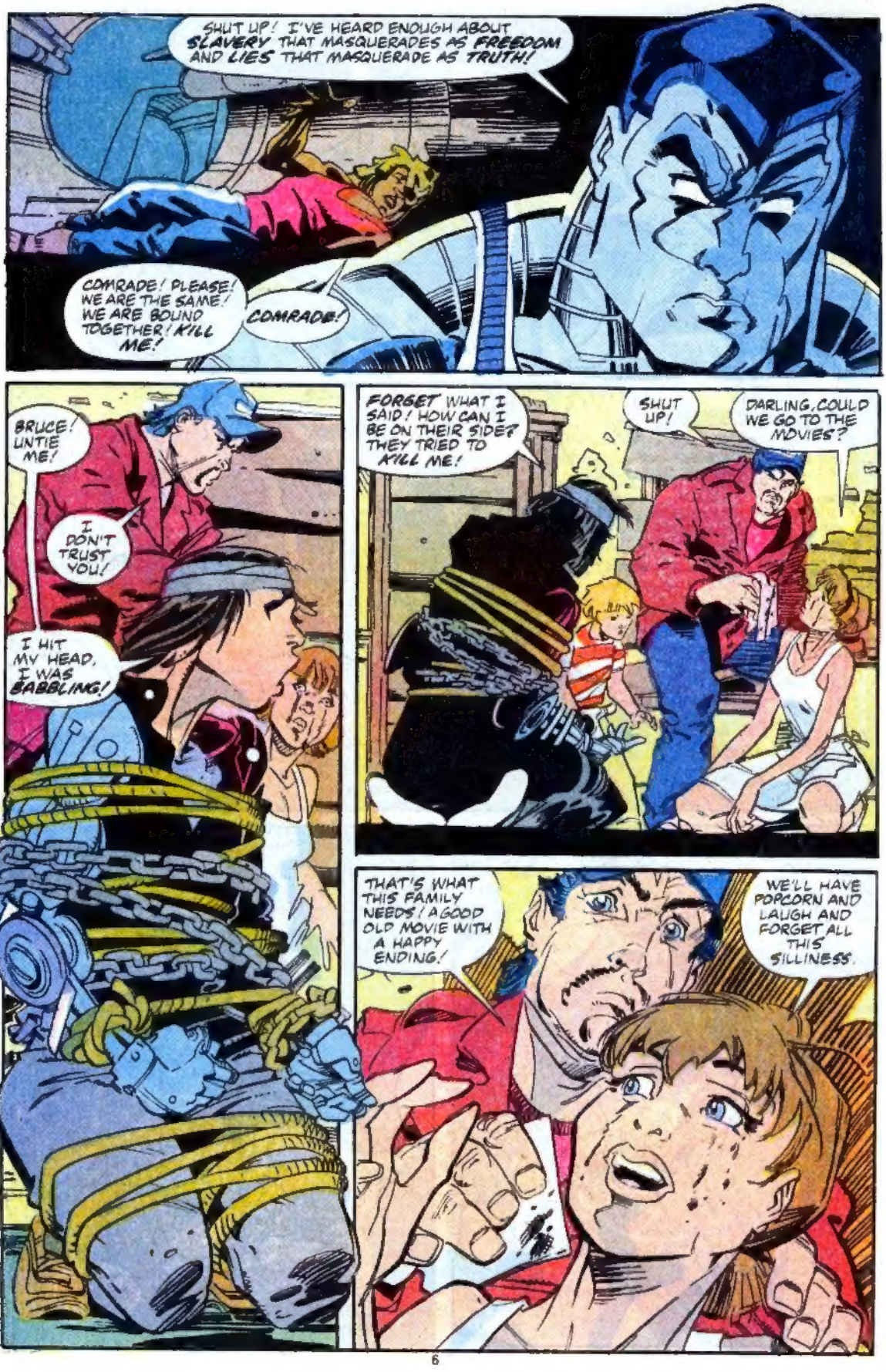

VOK

SKRACK
WOMP

LET GO OF HER!
MOMMY!
MOMMY!
MOMMY!
COME ON, YOU SUCKER, LET GO!

SKRASH
OH GOD.
WOMP
BRUCE! FIRE WHERE IT'S HEAD SHOULD BE!
BLAM
BLAM
UHGN... MY MISSION...
DON'T WORRY, DARLING, DON'T WORRY, DARLING...
MOM, YOUR FACE...
WE'LL HAVE THAT HOT CHOCOLATE NOW, DARLING...
ZACKERY-- DON'T LOOK AT HER!
MY MISSION...
MUST KILL THE FAMILY... KILL THE FAMILY...
MISSION...
NO!
COME TO MOMMY...
NINA! WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
YOU TRAITOR!

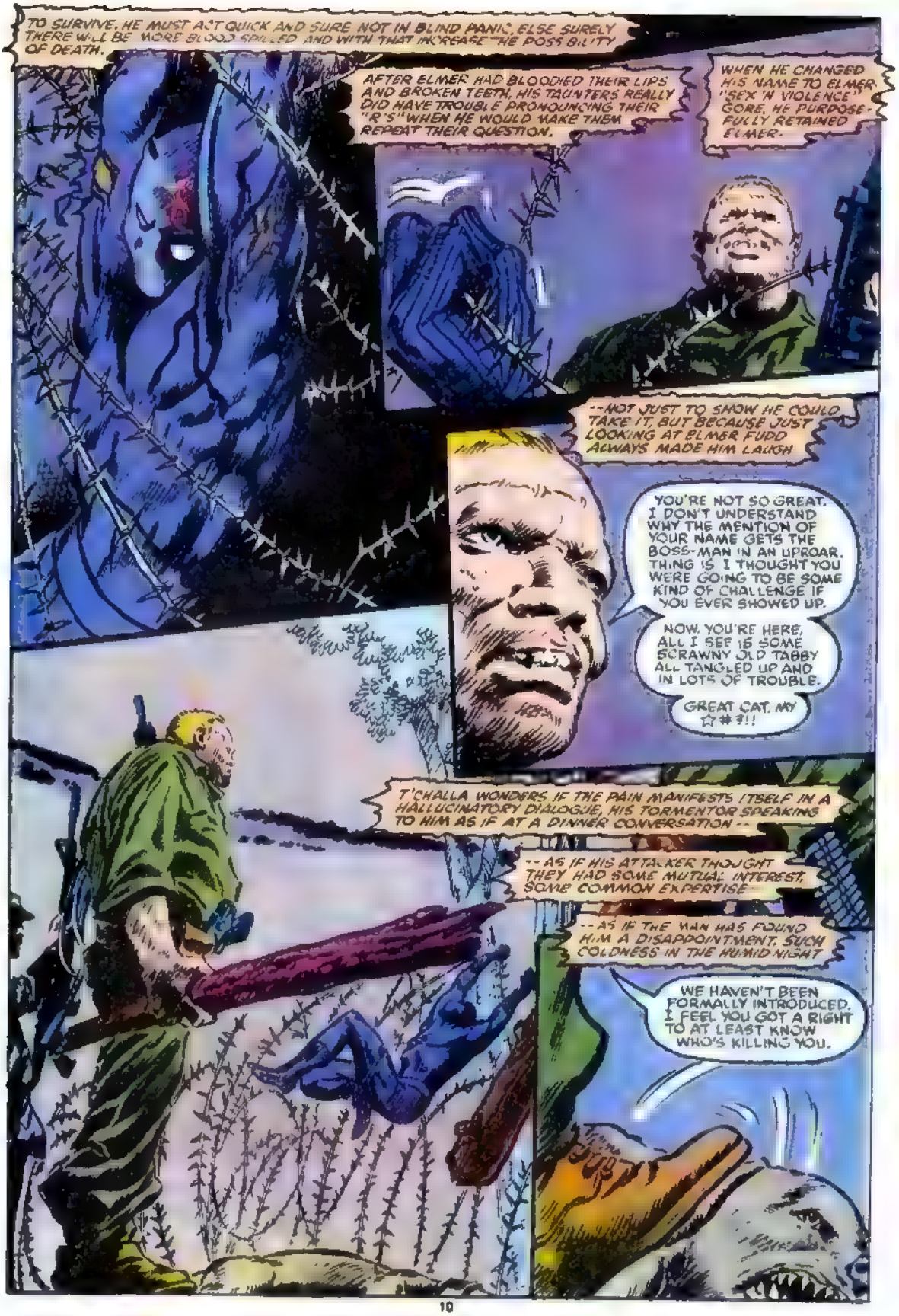
PLEASE! FINISH ME OFF!
KILL ME!
WHAT?!
NO!
PLEASE! IF YOU LEAVE ONE SCRAP OF ME ALIVE--THEY'LL RE-BUILD ME!
IN ONE FIGHT, I LOST MY HEART! THEY REPLACED IT WITH THE HEART OF A BABOON!
I LOST ALL MY BLOOD, SO I WAS DRAINED AND FILLED WITH THE BLOOD OF A HYENA!
MY SKIN COMES IN PATCHES FROM MANY STRANGERS, MANY COUNTRYMEN-- ALL COMRADES!
ALL OUR PARTS-- OUR HEARTS, BLOOD, SOULS, MINDS-- ALL PARTS ARE REPLACEABLE PARTS.
YOU'RE INSANE!
I'M GOING TO END THIS HORROR SHOW, I'M GOING TO DESTROY YOUR WHOLE OPERATION HERE--
--BUT I WON'T KILL YOU!
PLEASE, COMRADE! I'M JUST A SOLDIER LIKE YOU!
I JUST FOLLOWED ORDERS!
FOR AMERICA, AND ALL SHE STANDS FOR!
I AM BOUND TO HER!


SHUT UP! I'VE HEARD ENOUGH ABOUT SLAVERY THAT MASQUERADES AS FREEDOM AND LIES THAT MASQUERADE AS TRUTH!
COMRADE! PLEASE! WE ARE THE SAME! WE ARE BOUND TOGETHER! KILL ME!
COMRADE!
BRUCE! UNTIE ME!
I DON'T TRUST YOU!
I HIT MY HEAD, I WAS BABBLING!
FORGET WHAT I SAID! HOW CAN I BE ON THEIR SIDE? THEY TRIED TO KILL ME!
SHUT UP!
DARLING, COULD WE GO TO THE MOVIES?
THAT'S WHAT THIS FAMILY NEEDS! A GOOD OLD MOVIE WITH A HAPPY ENDING!
WE'LL HAVE POPCORN AND LAUGH AND FORGET ALL THIS SILLINESS.

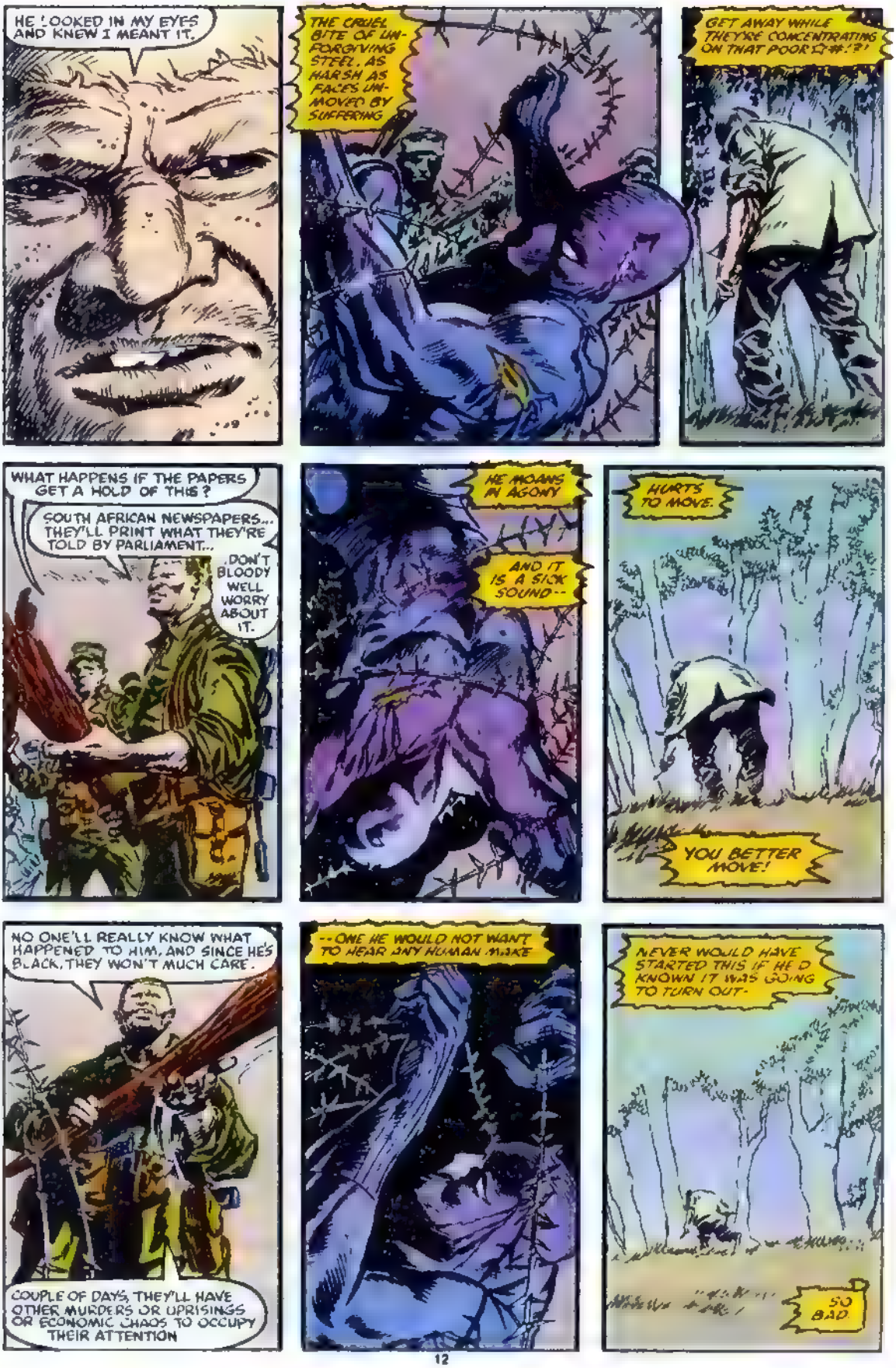
PLEASE, DARLING?
I'VE COOKED AND CLEANED...
THE IRONING'S ALL DONE...
A MOVIE WOULD BE --
GREANGH!
DADDY!
MOMMY CAN'T TALK!
QUIET, ZACKERY
THIS IS FOR THE BEST. I CAN'T THINK WITH ALL HER BABBLING!
SO MUCH FOR FREE SPEECH.
YOU'RE NEXT, NINA!
DID YOU HEAR THAT CRY?
THAT WAS ROXANNE, AND HER CRY WAS CUT OFF!
I TOLD YOU HE ABUSED HER!
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S TIME TO CALL THE POLICE?
NO! OF COURSE NOT!
THIS IS THEIR PRIVATE AFFAIR, IT'S NONE OF OUR BUSINESS!

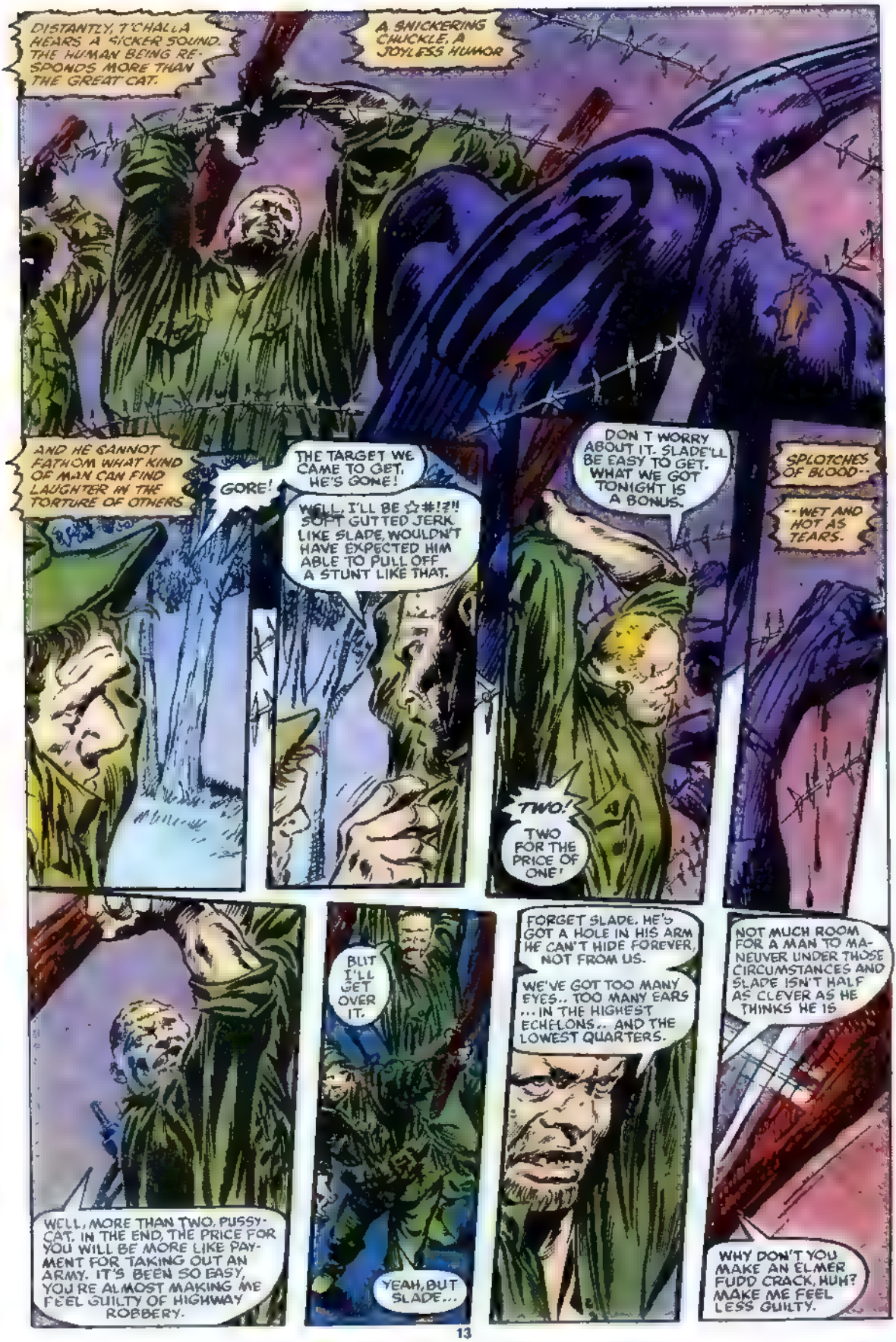
CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE..

PANTHER'S QUEST
CHAPTER III
STARRING: THE BLACK PANTHER
Any thinking African in this country is driven continuously to a conflict between his conscience and the law
Nelson Mandela
THE GREAT CAT IS TORN AND BLEEDING.
THE FLOW OF BLOOD ACTUALLY CALMS TO PANIC RATHER THAN INFLAMES IT.
LOST BLOOD IN COPPER DUST
ELMER IS THE ONLY PART OF HIS NAME GORE KEPT.
IN SCHOOL, THERE WERE KIDS WHO USED TO CALL HIM ELMER FUDD, AND ASK HIM IF HE'D GOTTEN THAT 'WASCALLY WABBIT" YET?
STRIKE, YOU MAKE SURE THE REST OF THE UNIT FIND THEMSELVES SOME SUITABLE BRANCHES FOR CLUBS.
ME, I WANT TO GET A CLOSE LOOK AT THE GUY WHO CAN MAKE SOMEBODY LIKE THE BOSS MAN PEE HIS PANTS.

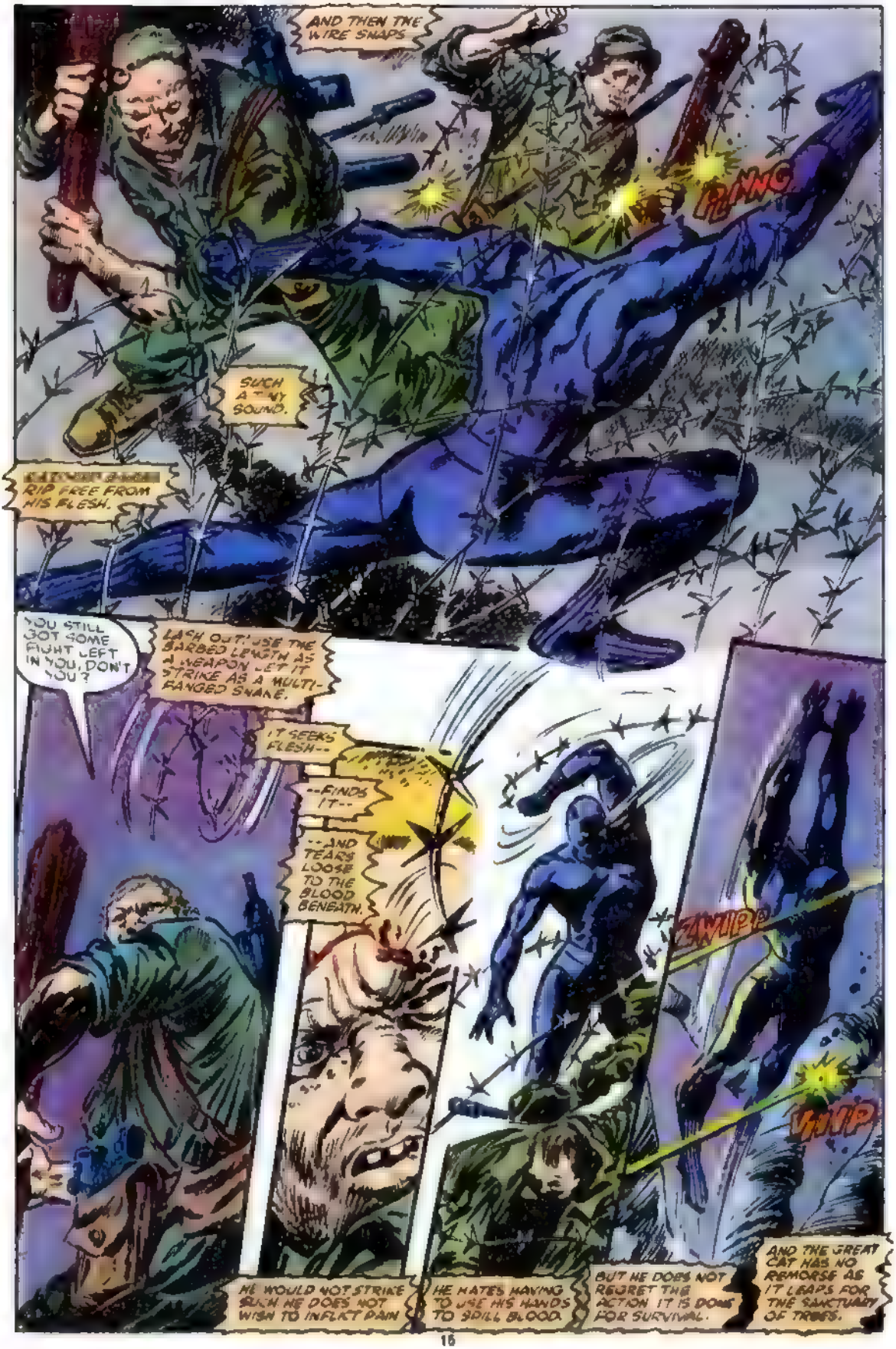

TO SURVIVE, HE MUST ACT QUICK AND SURE NOT IN BLIND PANIC, ELSE SURELY THERE WILL BE MORE BLOOD SPILLED AND WITH THAT INCREASE THE POSSIBILITY OF DEATH.
AFTER ELMER HAD BLOODIED THEIR LIPS AND BROKEN TEETH, HIS TAUNTERS REALLY DID HAVE TROUBLE PRONOUNCING THEIR "R'S" WHEN HE WOULD MAKE THEM REPEAT THEIR QUESTION.
WHEN HE CHANGED HIS NAME TO ELMER "SEX 'N VIOLENCE" GORE, HE PURPOSEFULLY RETAINED ELMER.
--NOT JUST TO SHOW HE COULD TAKE IT, BUT BECAUSE JUST LOOKING AT ELMER FUDD ALWAYS MADE HIM LAUGH
YOU'RE NOT SO GREAT. I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY THE MENTION OF YOUR NAME GETS THE BOSS-MAN IN AN UPROAR. THING IS I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO BE SOME KIND OF CHALLENGE IF YOU EVER SHOWED UP.
NOW, YOU'RE HERE, ALL I SEE IS SOME SCRAWNY OLD TABBY ALL TANGLED UP AND IN LOTS OF TROUBLE.
GREAT CAT, MY ☆#?!!
T'CHALLA WONDERS IF THE PAIN MANIFESTS ITSELF IN A HALLUCINATORY DIALOGUE, HIS TORMENTOR SPEAKING TO HIM AS IF AT A DINNER CONVERSATION --
-- AS IF HIS ATTACKER THOUGHT THEY HAD SOME MUTUAL INTEREST, SOME COMMON EXPERTISE --
-- AS IF THE MAN HAS FOUND HIM A DISAPPOINTMENT. SUCH COLDNESS IN THE HUMID NIGHT
WE HAVEN'T BEEN FORMALLY INTRODUCED. I FEEL YOU GOT A RIGHT TO AT LEAST KNOW WHO'S KILLING YOU.

NO MATTER HOW HE TRIES TO ANALYZE THE SITUATION, PATRICK SLADE'S THOUGHTS KEEP RETURNING TO TWO DISTINCT REFRAINS: "I'M BLEEDING LIKE A STUCK PIG" AND "THIS WAS A MISTAKE, I NEVER SHOULD HAVE STARTED THIS."
WHO THE ☆#!?! IS THE BIG SUCKER WHO KNIFED HIM LIKE THIS?
ELMER "SEX 'N VIOLENCE" GORE, RIGHT HERE, ABOUT TO PUT YOU OUT OF YOUR MISERY. I EARNED THAT NAME BACK IN HIGH SCHOOL.
DON'T PASS OUT, YOU ☆#@!?! YOU'VE GOT TO PULL IT OUT!
BUT THE BLOOD. THIS WAS A MISTAKE!
NEAR TO DROVE MY PARENTS NUTS. THEY DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK ABOUT THIS MONSTER IN THEIR HOUSE.
BIG SUCKER'S NOT WITH THE POLICE. NONE OF THEM ARE DRESSED SOMEWHAT LIKE SOLDIERS, BUT THEY'RE NOT THAT'S GOOD! CAN'T IMPRISON HIM!
MORE BLOOD! HURTS! SHOULDN'T HAVE STARTED THIS..
THEY'D TRY HEART-TO-HEART TALKS...
WHO ARE THESE SADISTS, THEN? IF THEY'RE NOT WITH THE AUTHORITIES THEN THEY'RE ACTING ILLEGALLY.
TERRIBLE KNOWLEDGE STRIKES HIM, AND HE BECOMES ACUTELY AWARE OF HIS PULSE--
-EACH BEAT SPURTING BLOOD FROM HIS WOUND
...COUNSELLING SESSIONS... ONE DAY I JUST BEAT ☆#?! OUT OF THE OLD MAN AND TOLD HIM IF HE EVER AGAIN TRIED TO BRING ME TO ONE OF THOSE HEAD-QUACKS OR HAVE ME PUT AWAY--
HE KNOWS WHO SENT THIS MAN, AND HE KNOWS THERE IS NO CHANCE TO PLEAD FOR CLEMENCY. THERE WILL BE NO TRIAL.
THEY WILL WANT ONLY THE SILENCE OF DEATH.
--I'D KILL HIM.


HE LOOKED IN MY EYES AND KNEW I MEANT IT.
THE CRUEL BITE OF UNFORGIVING STEEL. AS HARSH AS FACES UNMOVED BY SUFFERING
GET AWAY WHILE THEY'RE CONCENTRATING ON THAT POOR &%#!?!
WHAT HAPPENS IF THE PAPERS GET A HOLD OF THIS?
SOUTH AFRICAN NEWSPAPERS... THEY'LL PRINT WHAT THEY'RE TOLD BY PARLIAMENT...
.DON'T BLOODY WELL WORRY ABOUT IT.
HE MOANS IN AGONY
AND IT IS A SICK SOUND--
HURTS TO MOVE.
YOU BETTER MOVE!
NO ONE'LL REALLY KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM, AND SINCE HE'S BLACK, THEY WON'T MUCH CARE.
COUPLE OF DAYS, THEY'LL HAVE OTHER MURDERS OR UPRISINGS OR ECONOMIC CHAOS TO OCCUPY THEIR ATTENTION
--ONE HE WOULD NOT WANT TO HEAR ANY HUMAN MAKE
NEVER WOULD HAVE STARTED THIS IF HE'D KNOWN IT WAS GOING TO TURN OUT-
SO BAD.


DISTANTLY, T'CHALLA HEARS A SICKER SOUND. THE HUMAN BEING RESPONDS MORE THAN THE GREAT CAT.
A SNICKERING CHUCKLE. A JOYLESS HUMOR
AND HE CANNOT FATHOM WHAT KIND OF MAN CAN FIND LAUGHTER IN THE TORTURE OF OTHERS.
GORE!
THE TARGET WE CAME TO GET, HE'S GONE!
WELL, I'LL BE ☆#!?!! SOFT GUTTED JERK LIKE SLADE, WOULDN'T HAVE EXPECTED HIM ABLE TO PULL OFF A STUNT LIKE THAT.
DON T WORRY ABOUT IT. SLADE'LL BE EASY TO GET. WHAT WE GOT TONIGHT IS A BONUS.
SPLOTCHES OF BLOOD--
--WET AND HOT AS TEARS.
TWO!
TWO FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!
WELL, MORE THAN TWO, PUSSY-CAT. IN THE END, THE PRICE FOR YOU WILL BE MORE LIKE PAYMENT FOR TAKING OUT AN ARMY. IT'S BEEN SO EASY, YOU'RE ALMOST MAKING ME FEEL GUILTY OF HIGHWAY ROBBERY.
BUT I'LL GET OVER IT.
YEAH, BUT SLADE...
FORGET SLADE. HE'S GOT A HOLE IN HIS ARM HE CAN'T HIDE FOREVER, NOT FROM US.
WE'VE GOT TOO MANY EYES.. TOO MANY EARS ...IN THE HIGHEST ECHELONS.. AND THE LOWEST QUARTERS.
NOT MUCH ROOM FOR A MAN TO MANEUVER UNDER THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES AND SLADE ISN'T HALF AS CLEVER AS HE THINKS HE IS
WHY DON'T YOU MAKE AN ELMER FUDD CRACK, HUH? MAKE ME FEEL LESS GUILTY.

EACH MOVE BRINGS A NEW GASH, A THIN LINE WIDE WITH PAIN. HE MUST CONTROL THE PAIN
PLEASE, LET HIM KEEP CONTROL OF THE PAIN!
THE PAIN WANTS TO KILL ANY OTHER THOUGHT. IT DEMANDS FEALTY
DENY IT!
FLEE FROM THE JAGGED ENTRAPMENT!
BREAK THE STRANDS OF IMPRISONMENT!
BARBS RIP AND SHRED AND BLOOD FLOWS AND THE WIRE REFUSES TO GIVE--
--AND THE BARBS DIG DEEPER AND HIS MOANS ARE LOUDER AND HE CAN NO LONGER COMPREHEND WHAT HIS ATTACKERS ARE SAYING
--AND HE IS SCREAMING TO HIMSELF THAT HE WILL BE FREE BUT THE PAIN SCORNS SUCH A LUDICROUS IDEA--
--SO HE SCREAMS "FREE!" LOUDER BUT THE PAIN IS NOW THE ENTIRE WORLD, THE PAIN IS GREATER THAN THE CAT--
--AND HE WILL NOT GIVE UP, BUT HE IS NOT SURE HE WILL BE FREE.

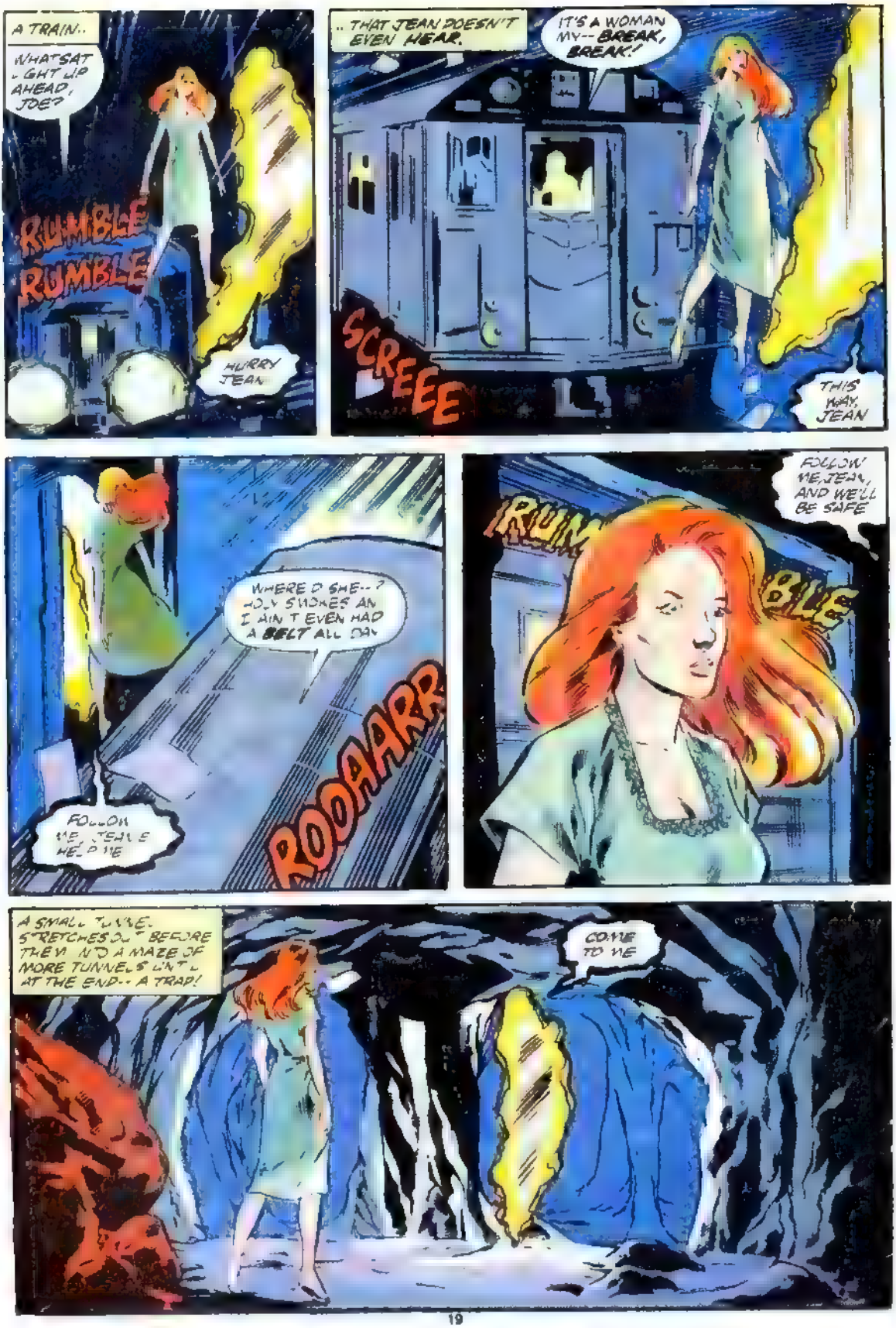

AND THEN THE WIRE SNAPS
RIPP
SUCH A TINY SOUND.
RIP FREE FROM HIS FLESH.
YOU STILL GOT SOME FIGHT LEFT IN YOU, DON'T YOU?
LASH OUT! USE THE BARBED LENGTH AS A WEAPON. LET IT STRIKE AS A MULTI-FANGED SNAKE.
IT SEEKS FLESH--
--FINDS IT--
--AND TEARS LOOSE TO THE BLOOD BENEATH.
ZWIP!
WHIP
HE WOULD NOT STRIKE SUCH HE DOES NOT WISH TO INFLICT PAIN
HE HATES HAVING TO USE HIS HANDS TO SPILL BLOOD
BUT HE DOES NOT REGRET THE ACTION IT IS DONE FOR SURVIVAL.
AND THE GREAT CAT HAS NO REMORSE AS IT LEAPS FOR THE SANCTUARY OF TREES.

SECURE A HOLD!
THE PAIN PROTESTS ANGRILY TRYING TO BECOME THE WORLD AGAIN, BUT HE KNOWS HE MUST NOT LOSE HIS GRIP.
TIME THE RELEASE RIGHT, GAUGE THE DISTANCE, IGNORE THE PAIN AND FEARFUL WETNESS OF BLOOD.
KEEP GOING!
PUT THE WEAPONS UP OR YOU'LL HAVE THE POLICE AND ARMY FORCES OF JOHANNESBURG ON OUR BUTTS. LET'S MOVE IT OUT OF HERE.
NO KIDDING, HE GOT THE ☆#!! OUT OF THAT. I'D HAVE PLACED BOOK HE WAS DEAD MEAT.
TALK ABOUT HAVING A BAAAD NIGHT.
THIS IS THE WORST I CAN REMEMBER IN A MONTH OF SUNDAYS.
BRANCHES BLURRING, HANDS SLIPPERY WITH BLOOD.
SO MUCH LOST BLOOD.
CRRRAAK
WHIP
COPPER DUST--
--DRINKS THE BLOOD-DROPLETS THIRSTILY.

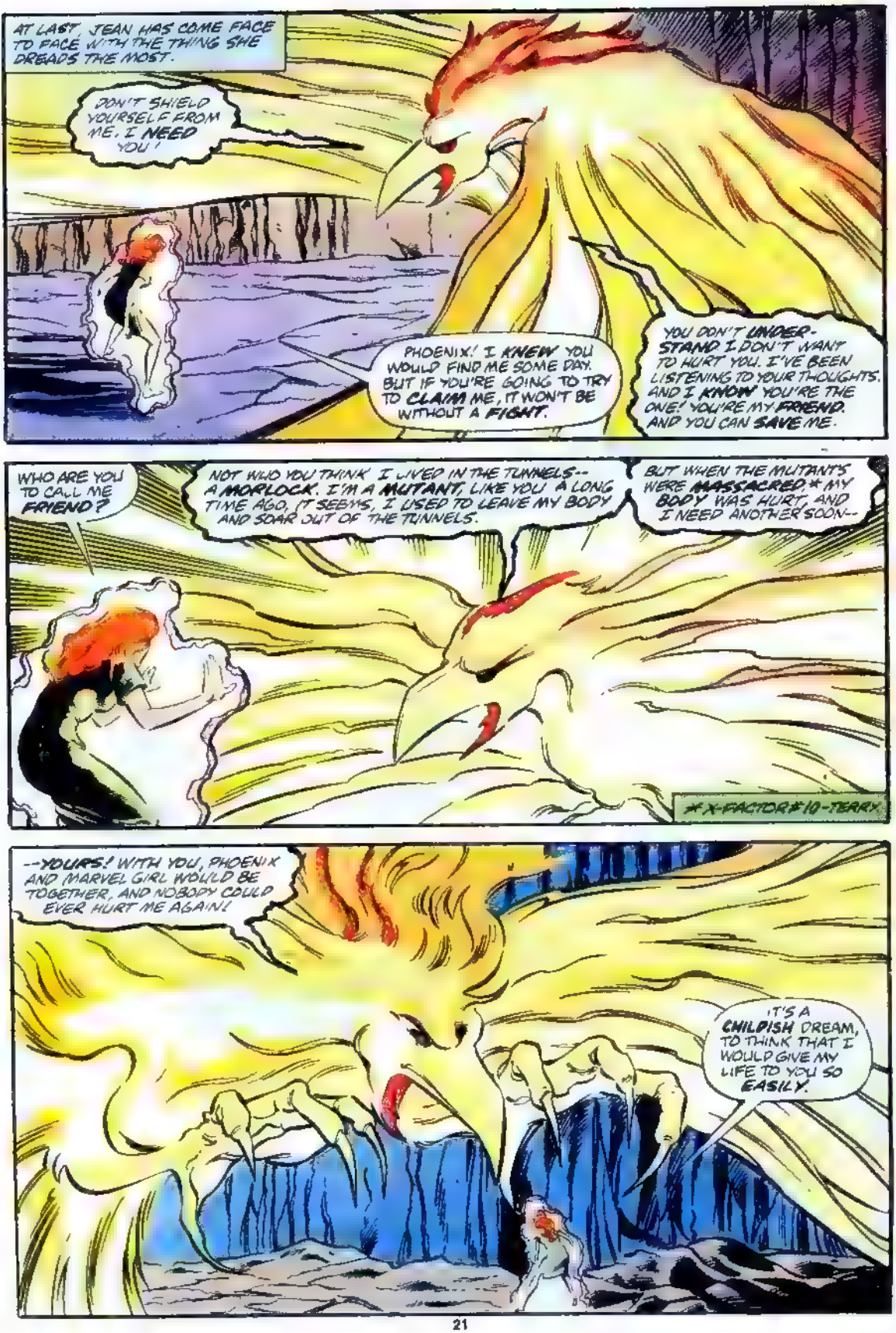
CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE..

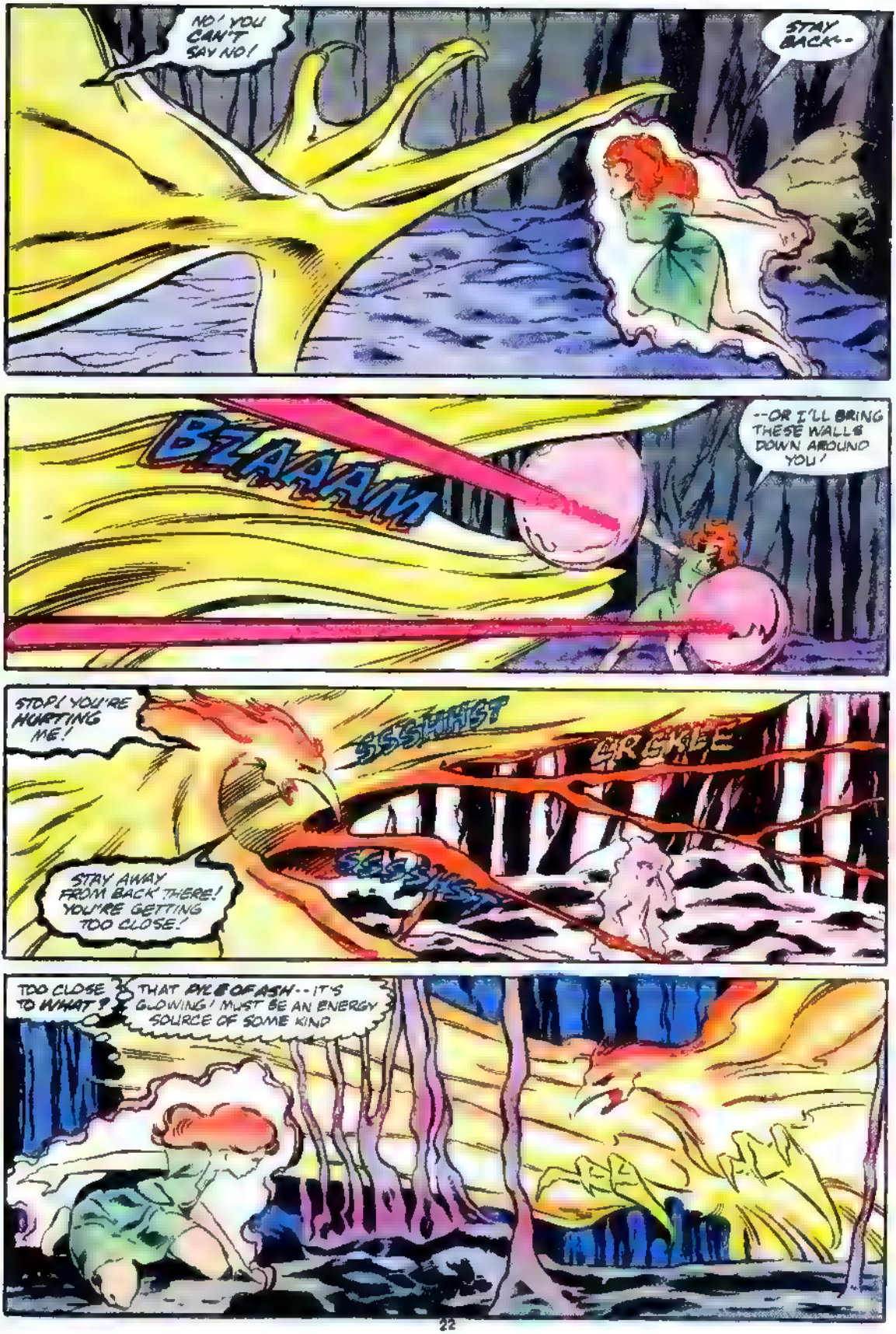
2 A.M..
MARVEL GIRL
HIGH ABOVE NEW YORK CITY FLOATS A SILENT MONOLITH-- A BLOT IN THE NIGHT SKY WHICH MANY IN THAT CITY HAVE COME TO KNOW, BUT FEW HAVE ENTERED.
TONIGHT, AN INTRUDER HAUNTS THE DREAMS OF ONE OF ITS INHABITANTS...
...AND IN REALITY, HAUNTS THE VERY MONOLITH ITSELF.
JEAN... JEANNIE... HELP ME!
SOMEONE OR SOMETHING HAS SLIPPED ABOARD THE X-FACTOR SHIP, INTO THE ROOM OF MARVEL GIRL-- INTO HER MIND, HER DREAMS, HER PAST--AND IS BECKONING HER TO AWAKE.
FOR OUT OF THE ASHES HAS ARISEN.
THE MAIDEN PHOENIX

AS IF IN A TRANCE, JEAN GREY RESPONDS TO THE PLEA..
WAKE UP, JEAN. I NEED YOU.
...MOVING AS IF NOT CONTROLLED BY HER OWN WILL.
DON'T BE AFRAID YOU KNOW ME
SHE BEGINS TO RISE...
IT'S I JEAN YOUR TEACHER PROFESSOR XAVIER COME WITH ME
HELP ME
MARVEL GIRL FOLLOWS UNDER THE POWER OF ANOTHER, NOT QUITE AWAKE OR AWARE. THEY PASS OUT OF THE SHIP, UN-NOTICED BY EITHER JEAN'S COMRADES OR THE SHIP ITSELF--
--AS IF BOTH WERE GHOSTS.
DOWN ONTO THE STREETS OF THE CITY..
AND DOWN FURTHER STILL...
SUBWAY
THIS WAY, JEANNIE FOLLOW ME
...INTO DANGER'S WAY.
ONLY IN NEW YORK---
HUH?

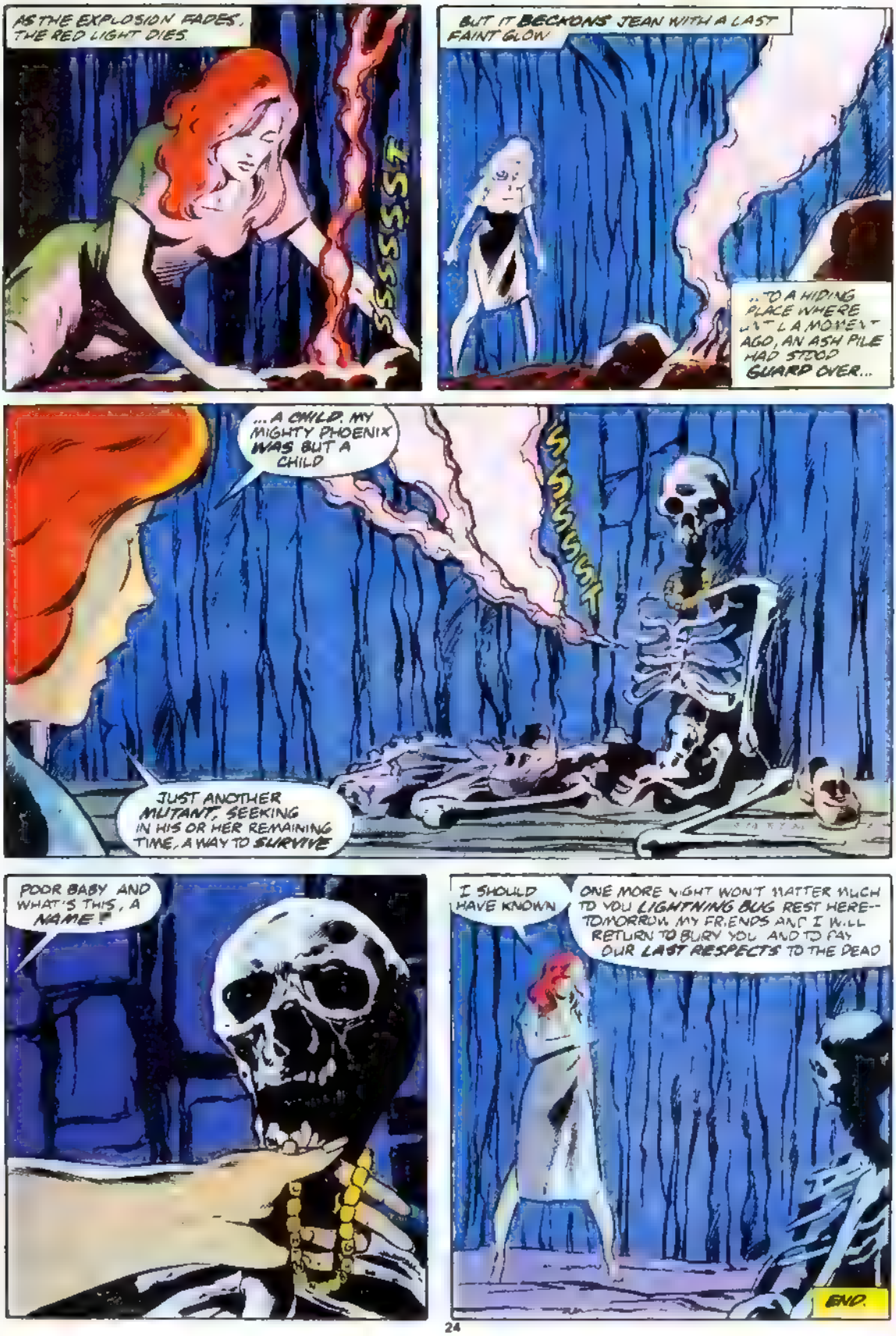

A TRAIN..
WHAT'SAT ..GHT UP AHEAD, JOE?
RUMBLE RUMBLE
HURRY JEAN
.. THAT JEAN DOESN'T EVEN HEAR.
IT'S A WOMAN MY--BREAK, BREAK!
SCREEEE
THIS WAY, JEAN
WHERE D SHE--? HOLY SMOKES AN I AIN T EVEN HAD A BELT ALL DAY
RODAARR
FOLLOW ME, JEAN, AND WE'LL BE SAFE
RUN
BLE
A SMALL TUNNEL STRETCHES OUT BEFORE THEM AND A MAZE OF MORE TUNNELS UNTIL AT THE END-- A TRAP!
COME TO ME

A DEAD-END--A MOUND OF ASH AND RUBBLE--AND BEHIND IT A WALL...
I'M HERE, JEANIE, HERE IN THE ASHES. COME AND SAVE ME!
COME FORWARD, JEAN
I NEED YOU THAT'S RIGHT..
...AT LAST, YOU'RE MINE!
WHOOSH
HORDES OF RATS RUSH FORWARD IN FRIGHT, BRUSHING HER SKIN--PUSHING HER TO CONSCIOUSNESS.
WHAT?
SQUEE
SQUEE
EEE
EEE
WHERE AM I? WHO ARE YOU?
NO! COME BACK!


AT LAST, JEAN HAS COME FACE TO FACE WITH THE THING SHE DREADS THE MOST.
DON'T SHIELD YOURSELF FROM ME. I NEED YOU!
PHOENIX! I KNEW YOU WOULD FIND ME SOME DAY. BUT IF YOU'RE GOING TO TRY TO CLAIM ME, IT WON'T BE WITHOUT A FIGHT.
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND. I DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU. I'VE BEEN LISTENING TO YOUR THOUGHTS. AND I KNOW YOU'RE THE ONE! YOU'RE MY FRIEND. AND YOU CAN SAVE ME.
WHO ARE YOU TO CALL ME FRIEND?
NOT WHO YOU THINK. I LIVED IN THE TUNNELS-- A MORLOCK. I'M A MUTANT, LIKE YOU. A LONG TIME AGO, IT SEEMS, I USED TO LEAVE MY BODY AND SOAR OUT OF THE TUNNELS.
BUT WHEN THE MUTANTS WERE MASSACRED * MY BODY WAS HURT, AND I NEED ANOTHER SOON--
* X-FACTOR #10 - TERRY.
--YOURS! WITH YOU, PHOENIX AND MARVEL GIRL WOULD BE TOGETHER, AND NOBODY COULD EVER HURT ME AGAIN!
IT'S A CHILDISH DREAM, TO THINK THAT I WOULD GIVE MY LIFE TO YOU SO EASILY.


NO! YOU CAN'T SAY NO!
STAY BACK--
BZAAAM
--OR I'LL BRING THESE WALLS DOWN AROUND YOU!
STOP! YOU'RE HURTING ME!
SSSHHST
ARGKLE
SSSSHS
STAY AWAY FROM BACK THERE! YOU'RE GETTING TOO CLOSE!
TOO CLOSE TO WHAT?
THAT PILE OF ASH--IT'S GLOWING! MUST BE AN ENERGY SOURCE OF SOME KIND

STAY AWAY FROM MY HOME
STAY BACK! NO, YOUR SHIELD HURTS! I MUST HAVE YOU OR IT'S GOING TO BE TOO LATE!
NOW, BEFORE SHE ENVELOPES ME COMPLETELY. IF I CAN JUST FORCE IT APART...
SSSHRAK!
AAAK
AAAK
SKRRRWOARK
AWWRRR
GOOD HEAVENS! I CREATED THAT!
A PHOENIX OF MY OWN-- COULD IT BE...?
THE ASH PILE--
--MUST PROTECT MYSELF--
--IT'S EXPLODING!
SSSSHRAK
AAAK
AAAK
KRAKOOM
SSSS

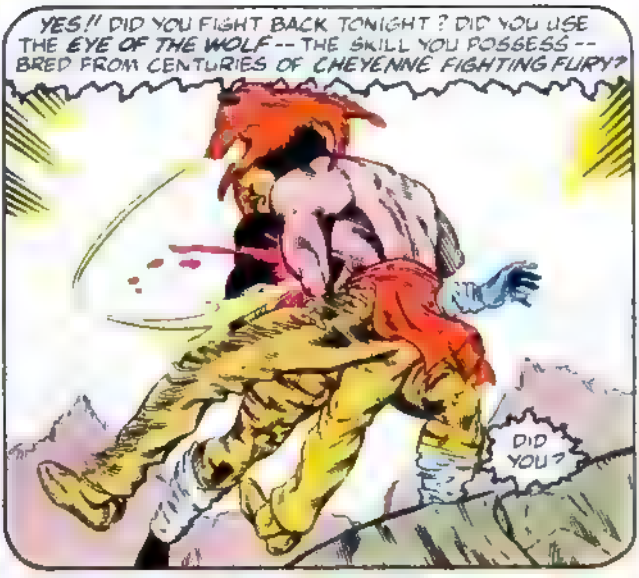

AS THE EXPLOSION FADES, THE RED LIGHT DIES.
SSSSSSS
BUT IT BECKONS JEAN WITH A LAST FAINT GLOW.
..TO A HIDING PLACE WHERE JUST A MOMENT AGO, AN ASH PILE HAD STOOD GUARD OVER...
...A CHILD. MY MIGHTY PHOENIX WAS BUT A CHILD
SSSSSSSS
JUST ANOTHER MUTANT, SEEKING IN HIS OR HER REMAINING TIME, A WAY TO SURVIVE
POOR BABY AND WHAT'S THIS, A NAME!
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN
ONE MORE NIGHT WON'T MATTER MUCH TO YOU LIGHTNING BUG. REST HERE--TOMORROW, MY FRIENDS AND I WILL RETURN TO BURY YOU AND TO PAY OUR LAST RESPECTS TO THE DEAD
END.

THE EMERGENCY ROOM OF GOOD SAMARITAN HOSPITAL PHOENIX ARIZONA.
I'LL NEED A BLOOD SAMPLE IMMEDIATELY. HE HAS NO IDENTIFICATION ON HIM. THEY FOUND HIM OUT IN THE DESERT. THREE UNITS WHOLE--STAT--
THAT'S RED WOLF!
THE INDIAN HERO?
UGH.MMM
"WHATEVER HE RAN INTO TONIGHT WAS MORE THAN HE COULD HANDLE..."
RED WOLF

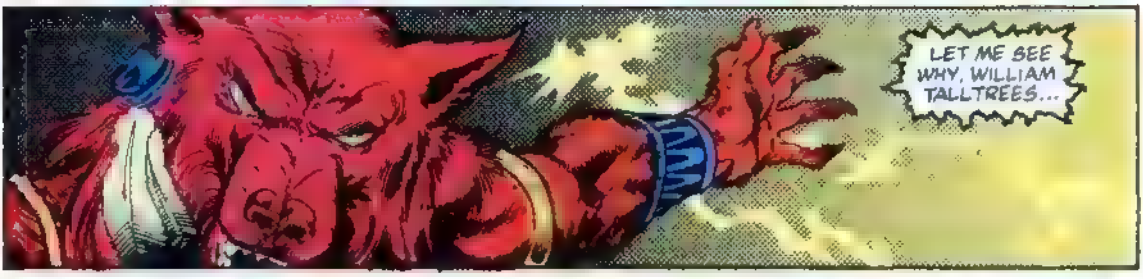
DESERT TEARS
WHY HAVE YOU COME TO THE SPIRIT GROUND, SON OF COURAGE?
WHY DO YOU SEEK COUNCIL WITH OWAYODATA, THE WOLF GOD WHO PASSED THE MANTLE OF RED WOLF TO YOUR WORTHY TRUST?
IS YOUR SPIRIT SO WILLING TO RELEASE ITS CLAIM TO MORTAL BOUNDS THAT YOU APPEAR BEFORE ME A BEATEN AND DYING MAN?
AND WHY WILLIAM TALLTREES, DO YOU APPEAR BEFORE ME IN SUCH A WEAKENED CONDITION?

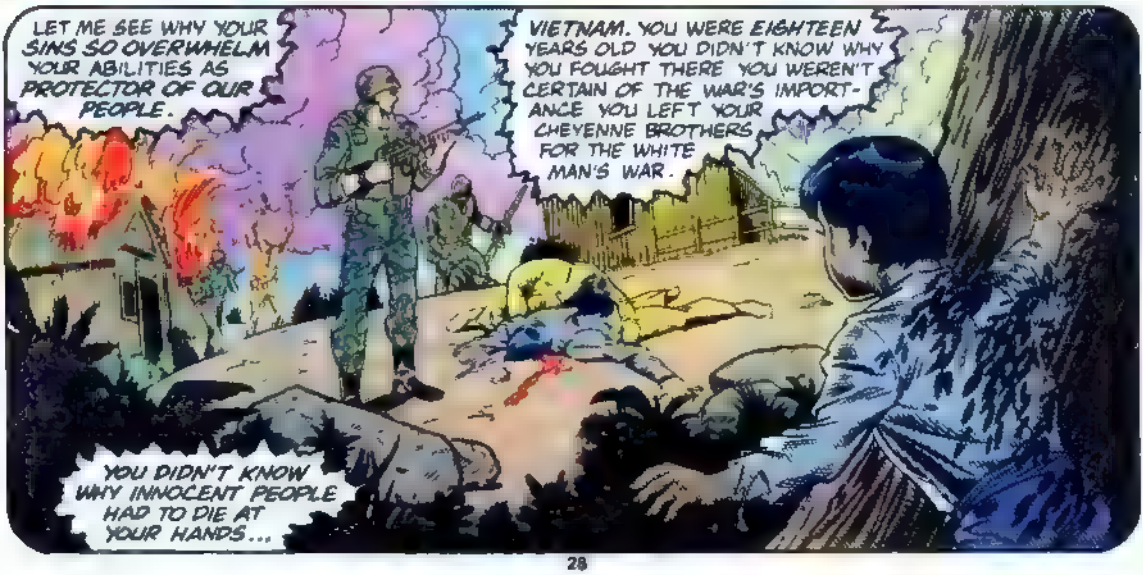
RISE RED WOLF FACE ME LIKE A CHEYENNE WARRIOR
HOW DID YOU--
NO FLESHLING, HOW DID YOU? HOW DID YOU ALLOW YOURSELF TO FALL SO LOW?
I--HAVEN'T--I'VE--I AM NOT THE HERO YOU WANT ME TO BE
I HAVE DONE THINGS IN MY PAST...
COMMITTED ATROCITIES IN THE NAME OF MY COUNTRY
THE WHITE MAN'S WAR ACROSS THE WORLD?
"YOU SURVIVED THE BLOODSHED, DIDN'T YOU?"
I NEED A SPONGE-- IN THERE-- YES DON'T KNOW HOW HE COULD SURVIVE SUCH A LOSS OF BLOOD..
I SURVIVED PHYSICALLY.. BUT EMOTIONALLY... I HAVE NEVER RECOVERED FROM THE BLOOD ON MY SOUL...
THE BLOOD OF INNOCENT PEOPLE!
YES... I SEE HOW THAT HAS WEAKENED YOU...

BUT INSTEAD OF GROWING STRONGER IN SPIRIT, YOU HAVE ALLOWED YOUR GUILT TO DOMINATE -- DROWN YOU IN DESPAIR AS SURELY AS BLOOD.
NO-- I--


YES!! DID YOU FIGHT BACK TONIGHT? DID YOU USE THE EYE OF THE WOLF -- THE SKILL YOU POSSESS -- BRED FROM CENTURIES OF CHEYENNE FIGHTING FURY?
DID YOU?

YOUR SILENCE BETRAYS YOU.


LET ME SEE WHY, WILLIAM TALLTREES...


LET ME SEE WHY YOUR SINS SO OVERWHELM YOUR ABILITIES AS PROTECTOR OF OUR PEOPLE.
VIETNAM. YOU WERE EIGHTEEN YEARS OLD. YOU DIDN'T KNOW WHY YOU FOUGHT THERE. YOU WEREN'T CERTAIN OF THE WAR'S IMPORTANCE. YOU LEFT YOUR CHEYENNE BROTHERS FOR THE WHITE MAN'S WAR.
YOU DIDN'T KNOW WHY INNOCENT PEOPLE HAD TO DIE AT YOUR HANDS...

YET YOU BORE THE PAIN OF WAR IN ALL WAYS.
I KNEW THAT THEN I KNOW NOW WHY.
AS I ALSO KNOW WHY YOU HAD TO LIVE YOUR LIFE AMONG THE CITIES OF MAN AFTER YOU CAME BACK FROM THE WAR.
IT WAS SHAME THAT DROVE YOU FROM US NOT SHAME OVER YOUR CHEYENNE HERITAGE, BUT BECAUSE OF YOUR ACTIONS IN THEIR WAR.
WE KNEW VERY WELL WHEN YOU FOUND THE LAIR OF THE RED WOLF
WE KNEW WHY YOU WERE CHOSEN.
"ARE YOU SAYING NOW THAT WE MADE THE WRONG CHOICE? ARE YOU SAYING YOU ARE NOT WORTHY OF THE RED WOLF MANTLE?"
VITALS ARE LOW WE'RE LOSING HIM
NO COME ON, HERO--HELP ME! SUTURES-- THAT ARTERY, YES GIVE ME A CLAMP. HOLD ON.
"...FIGHT WITH ME NOT AGAINST ME."
WE MUST DISCOVER THE TRUE ROOT OF YOUR GUILT YOU MUST LOOK INSIDE OF YOURSELF
THEN WE WILL DECIDE IF YOUR SUBMISSION IS JUSTIFIED.
IT WASN'T A DIRECT ACT OF COMBAT
YES THE BOY THAT BOY WAS THE SOLE SURVIVOR OF THE VILLAGE YOUR FELLOW SOLDIERS MASSACRED.
HE SEEKS ASSISTANCE AS YOU LEAVE THE AREA

DID YOU HELP HIM, WILLIAM?
STRAIGHT LINE--CARDIAC ARREST.
IF THIS WORKS WE HAVE TO CLOSE THAT ARTERY FAST. HE'S STILL LOSING TOO MUCH BLOOD.
CLEAR.
NIINZT
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE CHILD, WILLIAM?
WHO PUSHED HIM FROM THE METAL BIRD?
WAS IT YOU?
NO!

IT WAS THE OTHERS--JANES, FONG--I TRIED TO STOP THEM...
...BUT I DIDN'T TRY HARD ENOUGH...
THE BOY FELL. I WATCHED HIS EYES AS HE FELL.
THERE WAS SO MUCH PAIN IN THEM. AND SO MUCH HATE...
AND TONIGHT? WHY HAS THIS AFFECTED YOU TONIGHT?
BECAUSE THE BOY...
THE BOY IS NOW A MAN!!
HE WAS A BENGAL IN HIS FURY. I DESERVED HIS PUNISHMENT! I SLAUGHTERED HIS FAMILY! I CAUSED HIS LIFE TO BE RULED BY PAIN AND HATRED!
I DESERVE TO DIE!! DON'T YOU SEE...

WHAT--THAT IS ME! AM I ALREADY DEAD?
IF YOU SHOULD SO DECIDE.
BUT KNOW YOU THIS, SON OF PAIN...
WE MADE OUR DECISION WELL WHEN YOU WERE CHOSEN TO BE RED WOLF-- PROTECTOR OF THE CHEYENNE PEOPLE.
WE CHOSE YOU BECAUSE WE KNEW THAT YOUR GUILT--AND THE FACT THAT IT AFFECTED YOU SO DEEPLY-- WOULD ALLOW YOU TO BE A BETTER MAN, A MORE RIGHTEOUS WARRIOR.
I ASSUME THAT YOU DON'T WANT TO USE YOUR PAIN TO FUEL THE FIRES INSIDE YOU.
I DID NOT ANTICIPATE THAT YOU WOULD ALLOW IT TO WEAKEN YOU-- TO DESTROY YOU.
I ASSUME YOU DON'T WANT TO FULFILL YOUR DESTINY TO PREVENT THE LIVES OF THOSE LESS FORTUNATE FROM BEING RULED BY PAIN AND HATRED.
I GUESS WE WERE WRONG ABOUT YOU.
VITAL SIGNS ARE STABILIZING. THE SUTURES ARE HOLDING TIGHT AROUND THAT ARTERY...
HE'S GOING TO MAKE IT.
GUESS THE HERO HAD IT IN HIM AFTER ALL...
END.

MARVEL GIRL
VS.
PHOENIX?
RED WOLF
ON THE BRINK OF DEATH!
BLACK PANTHER
ALONE IN SOUTH AFRICA!